

REMARKS

Claims 44 - 56 are currently pending, with claim 44 being the sole independent claim. Claim 51 has been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1 - 43 were previously cancelled. Applicants appreciate and acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claims 44 - 50 and 52 - 56.

Applicants would like to clarify the instant application's claim to priority. Applicants believe that the instant application complies with 35 U.S.C. § 119 (e). Layo O. Morakinyo (maiden name found on provisional application) and Omolayo O. Famodu (married name found on non-provisional application) refer to the same person.

A petition to change inventor name Layo O. Morakinyo to Omolayo O. Famodu for U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/092,866 and a declaration in support of the petition are filed with the Petition Office simultaneously. A copy of the Petition and Declaration is enclosed herewith. Therefore, Omolayo O. Famodu is the common inventor of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/092,866 filed on July 15, 1998, U.S. non-Provisional Application No. 09/352,990 filed on July 14, 1999, and the instant application.

The specification has been amended to correctly reference continuity between applications.

In Applicants' last amendment filed on November 25, 2002 (Paper No. 9, received by PTO on December 2, 2002), Applicants inadvertently amended page 9 when page 6 should have been amended (see page 1 of Paper No. 9). As the Examiner suggested, Applicants have correctly amended page 6 and returned page 9 to its originally filed form. However, Applicants do note that page 6 was correctly identified on page 5 of Paper No. 9 (version with markings to show changes were made).

A supplemental IDS containing complete citations of the Examiner's crossed-out references is filed simultaneously herewith.

Applicants have amended both the title and abstract as suggested by the Examiner.

No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claim 51 has been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that the cancellation of claim 51 has rendered moot the objection and rejections of this claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102 and 112, first paragraph and second paragraph.

A petition for extension of time with a check for the required fee is enclosed. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment required in connection with this filing to Deposit Account No. 03-2775.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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